



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH - GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 5, 2008

CONTACTS:

Brian Williamsen 217/782.7355

Mike Claffey (IDOT) 312/814.3957

Marisa Kollias (IDOT) 312/814.4693

Paris Ervin (IDOT) 217/558.0517

Gov. Blagojevich awards \$4.5 million for new paratransit vehicles across Illinois

Ramp and lift-equipped vans deliver vital public transportation in rural areas; IDOT grants provide \$975,000 for 19 vans for agencies in northern Illinois

SPRINGFIELD - Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced today that the state has awarded \$4.5 million to pay for 77 ramp and lift-equipped vehicles that will improve rural public transportation across the state. In the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Region 2 of northern Illinois, \$975,568 will be awarded to purchase 19 vehicles.

"These grants will allow rural public transportation agencies to upgrade their paratransit vehicles to accommodate the needs of their passengers and get them to their destinations safely," said Gov. Blagojevich. "The elderly and persons with disabilities rely on these services to get to doctors appointments, shopping and adult day care. Without this service, they would have to rely on others for transportation or be forced to stay at home."

The funding is allocated through an application process administered by IDOT's Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation, which is responsible for supporting public and specialized transportation efforts throughout the state. The vans are used to provide transportation for medical and nutritional appointments, shopping, employment and other needs.

"IDOT is proud to be able to partner with these local agencies to provide enhanced transportation options and to help improve the quality of life for thousands of people across the state," said IDOT Secretary Milton R. Sees. "Supporting local efforts to provide rural public transportation is a vital part of IDOT's mission."

Following are the agencies that received an award in IDOT Region 2:

-more-

1259**08

COUNTY	AGENCY NAME	VEHICLE AWARDS	
Boone	Boone County	2	\$125,466
DeKalb	DeKalb County	5	\$277,883
Grundy	Grundy County	1	\$62,733
Henry	Henry County	2	\$95,297
Kankakee	Kankakee County	1	\$62,733
Jo Daviess	Jo Daviess County	3	\$158,030
Lee	Lee County	3	\$128,298
Stephenson	Malcom Eaton Enterprises	2	\$65,128
	Total		\$975,568

A complete list of recipients can be found on the IDOT Web site at www.dot.state.il.us.